THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE, INC.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT, U. S. A. 06111

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QST OFFICIAL ORGAN

25 March 1970

DIRECTORS LETTER NO. 4

TO: ALL ARRL MEMBERS, WEST GULF DIVISION.

1. The West Gulf Division ARRL Convention will be held at the Orange House, Jack Tar Motel, right on the water, at Orange, Texas, 17, 18, 19 July. Please make plans now to attend. The committee will mail details and pre-registration info soon.

2. April QST will contain FCC proposed rules changes for VHF-FM Repeaters and the ARRL VHF-FM Committee recommendations. Please read carefully and prepare your comments to FCC. Assistant Director Jack Mason, W5NSQ, is coordinating rebuttal planning for this division. Suggest you send a copy of your proposed comments to him.

3. The ARRL film, The Ham's Wide World, continues to be so popular for TV and school showings the distributors are preparing to ask for additional prints in order to supply the demand. Interested TV stations and schools should contact MODERN TV, 1411 Slocum St. Dallas, 75207, fone 742 4109, or 4084 Westheimer Road, Houston, 77027, telephone NA2 - 3841. Allow at least one month lead time before show date.

4. It appears the price of an amateur license will soon be $9.00, except for Novices. You can save $5.00 by upgrading before the increase goes into effect.

5. During this past year I have received a number of letters which remain unanswered. Although I hope to eventually answer each, please understand the volume of correspondence handled by the Director is considerable and his time is limited. The fact that some letters have not been answered in no sense implys they are not read and given serious consideration. Keep them coming.

6. Most likely one item of paramount importance to all amateurs, scheduled to be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the ARRL board of directors is the proposal, by Director Griggs, to expand the American fone bands 50 Kc (25 on 20 meters). See item 19, p. 78, July 1969 QST. The planning committee was directed to consider the feasibility of such action, coordinate it with IARU to determine the probable world wide effect, and report to the board at the upcoming meeting. I discussed this with Director Thurston, chairman of the committee. He assured me the committee had about completed their occupancy survey and will be prepared to make recommendations. We did not discuss who, by license class, would occupy the expanded portions should the committee recommendations result in rules changes.

As your Director, I shall be faced with the problem of deciding whether to support, modify, or vote to disapprove the committee recommendations. In order to do this in such manner as to perform the best service for amateur radio, I must have your opinions on this subject. Furthermore, if my action at the board meeting is to represent the desires of the majority I must know what the majority is thinking. Hence it is very important that each member cooperate. Otherwise I shall be forced to act according to the dictates of my own conscience, and that course of action may, or may not be in accordance with your collective wishes. Therefore, you are requested to answer the query outlined below and return it to me pronto.

Before we can do this intelligently, with fairness to all, and with the objective of doing the most good for amateur radio over the long pull, we need to consider as many pertinent factors as may presently be available to us. Please remember, the committee will be talking about expanding the fone bands 50 Kc (25 on 20), not 100 or some such other figure, since this is the directive of the board minute.

Remember, I want the graphs filled out on the basic presumption the committee will use the 50 Kc (25 on 20) figure. If you wish to present additional opinions based on other figures please make up additional graphs and so label them.

Now, let us consider a few pros and cons:

a. In order to hold members and maintain coverage for moving traffic most nets have moved into the General Class area, thus creating a crowded condition. Also, sometimes stations who could move into less crowded areas for casual rag chewing do not always do so (this is their option of course).

b. The only way we can expand the fone bands is by reallocating a portion of the spectrum now assigned to CW. Shall we do this, on the assumption that use of CW has declined, and that modern receivers require only about half as much space for a CW signal as formerly? To be considered also, is the possible fact that CW operators may be more numerous than we think, because they are not so readily identified by the casual listener when they are talking.

c. If we move downward with our fone bands, will the Canadian and Mexican fones also move down another 50 Kc? (They now operate just below our fones). If they do this what will be the effect on us? Canada has a special need for relatively clear frequencies because amateur radio is the only means of communication for many isolated families. Would our moving seriously interfere with those people? Does the fact that our numbers are so great and our need for additional fone frequencies is so great we are warranted in making this move?

d. There are some 21,000 Novices. They are required to be crystal controlled. Many of them have invested 25 - 28 dollars in crystals. They will be required to purchase new crystals if we move them. This problem can be eased somewhat by postponing their move until their license expires.

e. Is there adequate reason to make any change at all, at this time, since the Incentive Licensing program is a long term plan and has been in full effect for less than a year?

Please consider the above, and any other factors that may occur to you, then fill out and return the following portion to me.

73, Roy.

ROY L. ALBRIGHT, W5EYB, Director.

NAME _____ CALL _____ PRESENT LICENSE CLASS _____

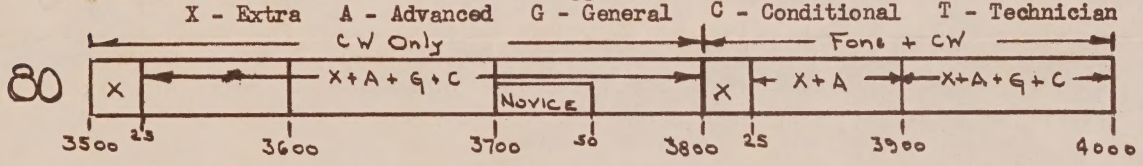
CLASS OF LICENSE YOU EXPECT TO HOLD TWO YEARS FROM NOW _____

I (do) (do not) think change is indicated at this time.

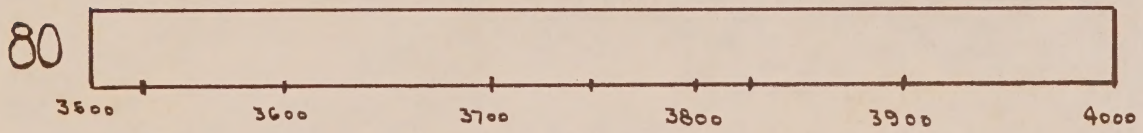
If the fone bands are to be expanded as proposed, I would allocate use as follows:

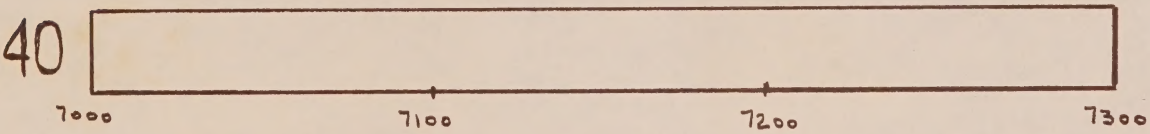
EXAMPLE: (Not to be construed as a suggestion or recommendation)

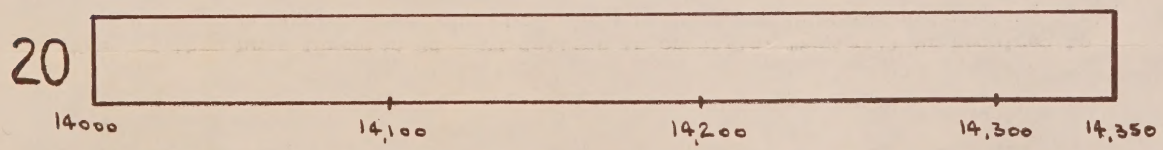
X - Extra A - Advanced G - General C - Conditional T - Technician

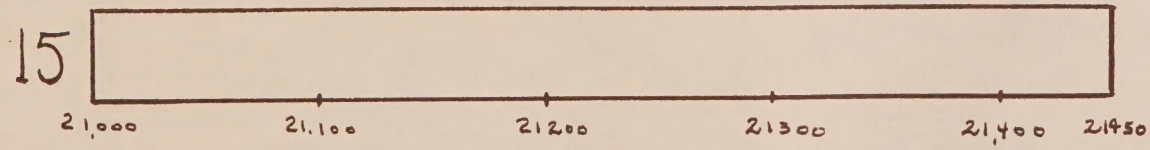


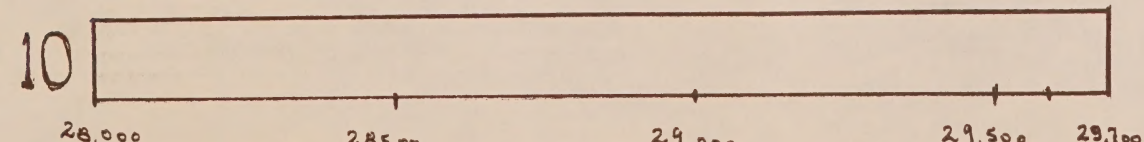
Your Opinion

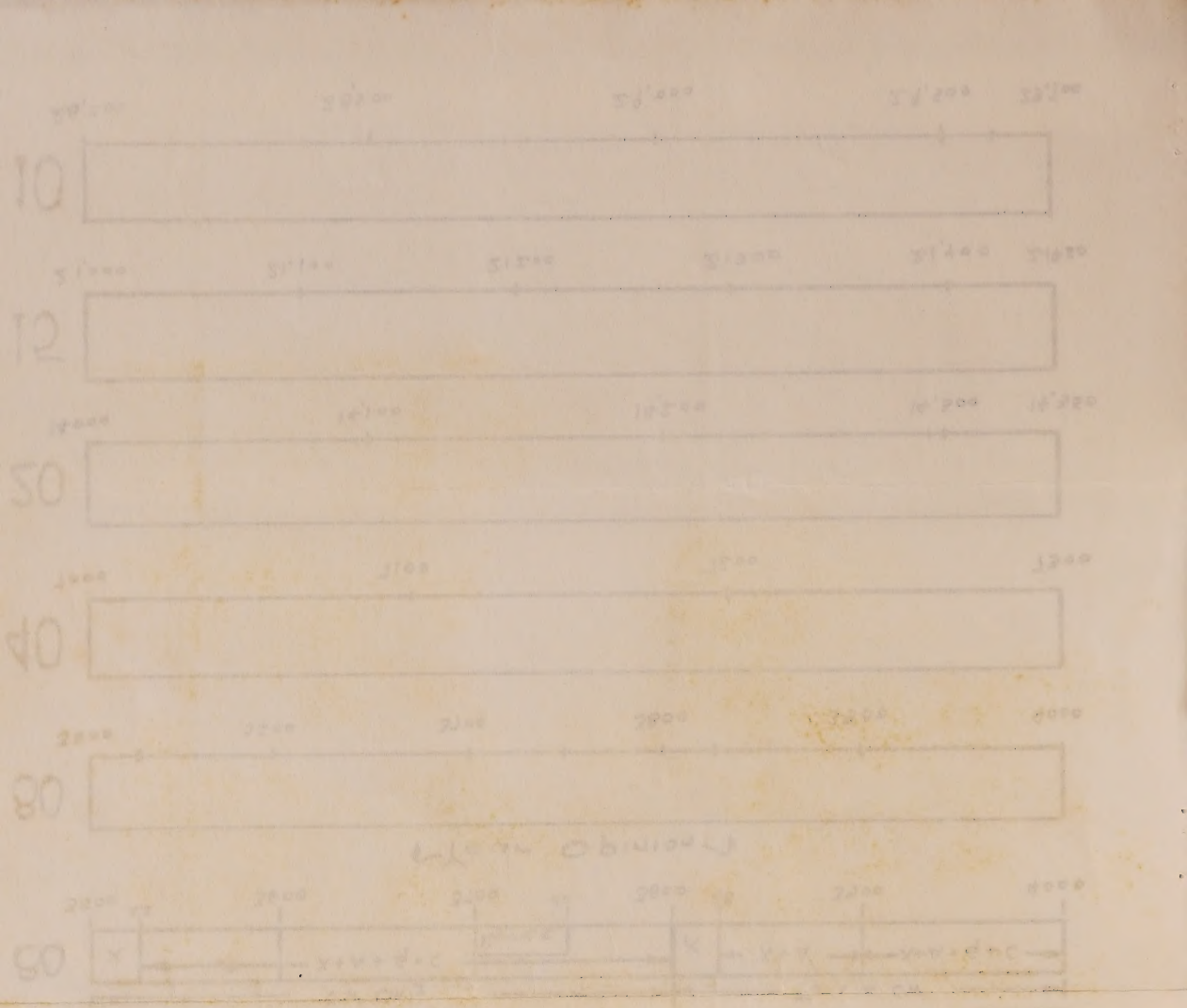












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